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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,612	07/26/2001	Aedan Diarmuid Cailean Coffey	ERLG.P-024	6798

21121 7590 02/25/2005

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EXAMINER	
CHANG, RICHARD	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2663	

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/915,612	COFFEY, AEDAN DIARMUID CAILEAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Richard Chang	2663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 June 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *06/02/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code in page 25, line 23. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by US patent No. 6,614,796 ("Black et al.").

Regarding claim 1, Black et al teach a switch (see Fig. 4), inherently a switch in hub mode is a hub (See Fig. 8, Col. 36, lines 3-7) for a fibre channel arbitrated loop (FCAL), said switch (100, hub) comprising a switching device including a crossbar switch (100 as matrix of switches, see Fig. 4), inherently internally connected by a plurality of signal lines, each signal line being electrically connected to at least one switch element, operable to selectively connect and disconnect one signal line from at least one other signal line, at least some of said signal lines (116, 118) being operatively connectable to respective devices at NL ports comprising said fibre-channel arbitrated

loop, crossbar switch (100 as said switching device) being operatively configurable to selectively open and close crossbar switch to arrange said devices on said fibre-channel arbitrated loop (See Fig. 4, Col 14, lines 9-22).

Regarding claim 2, Black et al further teach that said plurality of signal lines (132,142...) is divided into a first sub-set ('a' suffixed) and a second sub-set ('b' suffixed) of signal lines, at least some of said first sub-set of signal lines (132a, 142a, ...) being operatively connectable to respective input ports of devices comprising said fibre-channel arbitrated loop, and at least some of said second sub-set of signal lines (132b, 142b, ...) being operatively connectable to respective output ports of devices comprising said fibre-channel arbitrated loop fast-wide SCSI networks (See Fig. 5, Col 16, lines 30-32).

Regarding claim 3, Black et al further teach that said devices comprise a combination of storage devices and hub (as repeaters) (See Fig. 3, Col 1, lines 28-32).

Regarding claim 4, Black et al further teach that said switching device is configurable to operatively connect one of said second sub-set of signal lines (132b) to a fibre channel analyzer (144) to monitor traffics (See Fig. 5, Col 16, lines 32-38).

Regarding claim 5, Black et al further teach that said switching device is a crossbar switch (100 cross-point switch) (See Fig. 4, Col 14, lines 11-14).

Regarding claim 6, Black et al further teach that a printed circuit board including a plurality of metallic data paths (tracks) which in use connect at least some of said signal lines to a respective one of each of said devices comprising said fibre channel arbitrated loop (See Fig. 5, Col 17, lines 43-47).

Regarding claims 7-10, Black et al further teach that rack enclosure backplane subclass of switches supports both configuration as a backplane for a rack enclosure or as an enclosure services processor card adapted to plug into a backplane for a rack enclosure for fibre channel arbitrated loop (See Fig. 5, Col 16, lines 21-38), where the backplane signal path follows the SCSI physical interface standard, inherently a plurality of tracks terminate at respective edge connectors for connecting backplane to the FCAL devices (See Fig. 5, Col 1, lines 28-32).

Regarding claim 11, Black et al further teach that in switch mode the switching device is operatively connectable to an enclosure services processor (See Fig. 5, Col 17, lines 43-47), said processor being adapted to configure said switching device to monitors traffic on its local loop (arrange said devices on said fibre channel arbitrated loop and to connect said fibre channel analyzer to said loop) (See Fig. 5, Col 36, lines 14-29).

Regarding claim 12, Black et al further teach that said card including a plurality of tracks (130) which in use connect at least some of said signal lines (terminating at an edge connector for connecting said card to said backplane) to a respective one of each of said FCAL devices (144, 138 ...) comprising said fibre channel arbitrated loop, said enclosure services processor being operable to selectively control at least some of said switches to arrange said devices on said fibre-channel arbitrated loop (See Fig. 5, Col 16, lines 30-50).

Regarding claim 13, Black et al further teach that enclosure services processor as bridge (22) is adapted to configure said fibre-channel devices into two loops (20, 12) (See Fig. 2, Col 13, lines 6-10).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

rkc

Richard Chang
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2663

RICKY NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
2/22/05